DECLASSIFIED

Notes for Orientation Course
March 30, 1962

[redacted] Ladies and Gentlemen. I am delighted to welcome you as part of our Embassy family. This orientation program is, in a sense, an experiment. It will probably be modified, in some respects, as experience may dictate.

Most of you are comparatively new arrivals; some of you are working for the first time in a foreign country.

As you know, an American Embassy abroad represents the official interests of our Government. The Ambassador is held ultimately responsible for all activities of a public nature--indeed for a few of a private character--of employees of all agencies of the American Government in the United Kingdom, except for certain military organizations.

The primary purpose of a diplomatic mission is the management of international relations by negotiation. In order to enable such negotiations to be carried on under favorable conditions, special privileges are accorded to the personnel of such a mission. The reasons for this must be searched for in history. If, for example, the bearers of a flag of truce to an enemy were liable to be massacred by their adversaries, negotiation would become impossible. Therefore, for centuries, representatives of a foreign embassy have enjoyed a unique status--exemption from a variety of domestic laws and penalties, civil and criminal, freedom from taxation, opportunities to purchase goods at advantageous prices in their own commissaries, and other benefits almost too numerous to mention.

viz. Congolese eating Italians who did not have diplomatic passports.

In return, such American Government officials should, I think, properly be held to a higher standard of accountability than their compatriots who are not recipients of extraterritorial privileges.

I do not want to advocate pomposity in conduct, or anything in the way of subservience to a foreign way of life. But I think I can say, with your approval, that privilege is always abused unless matched with responsibility. I am sure you will always be conscious of this as a guide to your public and your private demeanor.

I hope, to use a Navy expression, you will find yourselves aboard a happy ship.

REVIEWED 6-17-81
EO
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

EXCISE

DECLASSIFIED

I went to the U.S. Trade Center this afternoon, to see the Agricultural Exhibition. It really is a fascinating spectacle. The figures on farm productivity in the U.S. are startling. Soybean output, for example, appears to have increased almost 100-fold since 1940. The cost of ingredients used for fattening livestock has declined, while animal weights have vastly increased. The same applies to chickens and turkeys. After a tour through the building, I arrived at the sorrowful conclusion that our problem of surplus farm products will never be settled, because of the constant technological advances in the agricultural field.

Tonight, E and I went for drinks with Mollie Buccleuch at 15 Grosvenor Square. Afterwards we all went to the Royal Festival Hall to hear the Vienna Philharmonic concert, as guests of the Austrian Ambassador, Schwarzenberg.

Mollie Buccleuch's party was fun. There were artists, scientists, publishers, writers, as well as socialites.

The Vienna Philharmonic concert was a magnificent performance, conducted by Herbert von Karajan. The program consisted of a symphony by Mozart, and another by Bruckner. The audience was madly enthusiastic. E, Mollie, and I sat in a box with the Homes. Throughout the program there was a marvelous blending of the brasses with the stringed instruments. Home plaintively said at the end that the only thing lacking in the performance had been the wielder of cymbals permitting himself only four clashes.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY REW DATE 6-17-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

April 7, 1962 - Saturday

I came to the office this morning, and spent most of [redacted] it with Joe Wagner,

DECLASSIFIED